

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed December 9, 2002. In the office action the Examiner:

- objected to claims 32, 33, 56 and 57 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims;
- rejected claims 35 and 36 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; and
- rejected claims 31, 34-41, 43, 44, 46-55, 58-65 and 67-74 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,428,259).

After entry of this amendment, the pending claims are: claims 31-41, 43-44, 46-65 and 67-74.

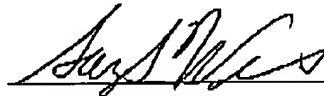
Claims 32 and 56 have been rewritten in independent format. Therefore claims 32, 33, 56 and 57 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 31 and 52 have been amended. As amended, these claims require that the combteeth spines each have a major axis that extends directly away from a side of the mirror. The claimed structure is not shown or suggested by Suzuki, in which the only spines are offset from the mirror. While the spines of Suzuki may have greater lateral extent than a middle section of the apparatus on which a mirror could be mounted, the spines in Suzuki do not have a major axis that extends directly away from a side of the mirror. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Suzuki reference to modify the structures shown therein so as to have the configuration and functionality of the present invention as represented by claims 31 and 52 and their dependent claims.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Date March 10, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



31,066

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